

Duration of posting of combatants at the front

†745. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the officers of Army had recommended the posting of combatants on front for seven years, instead of 17 years; if so, what are the details of the report;

(b) the action taken by Government so far in that regard;

(c) when was the report regarding the said recommendation received by Government; and

(d) the reasons for delay in taking action in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) A Group of Ministers (GoM) on 'Reforming the National Security System' appointed in the wake of Kargil Review Committee Report, discussed the issue of younger age profile and lateral transfer of army personnel to other organizations. While admitting that this is a complex matter, the GoM recommended a Committee of officers under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary to look into the terms of engagement of soldiers, lateral entry into other organizations and resettlement policies. The matter is under consideration of the Government and a Working Group comprising officers from the Army, Para Military Forces and Ministry of Home Affairs has been constituted to go into the details of the issue.

Private participation in Defence production

746. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private participation in Defence production is very poor; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the details of steps taken by Government to promote private participation in Defence production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Indian private sector industry has traditionally been associated with Defence Public Sector Undertakings

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.